

BILINGUALISM: PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS ON LEARNING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THE EARLY AGE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

In Asia, especially in Indonesia, the average of learning English is increasing from time to time; most parents have been trying to find a reputable bilingual school to expose their children with English. The purpose of this study was to investigate the parents' perceptions on learning English as a foreign language in the early age for their children. Ten mothers, who sent their children in two bilingual informal schools in Salatiga were selected to take part in semi-structure interview. The results of the interviews were categorized based on five themes that appeared in the literature review they are: 1. English as a trend, 2. Mastering English for a better education, 3. Mastering English for a better career, 4. English for a self-image and confidence, and 5. Mastering English for a better life. Another theme, "development in learning English in the early age" was added after the interview, and put it in the first part of the discussion. The finding shows that the parents are still having different perceptions about learning English only as a trend and the language development when their children learn in the early age. Meanwhile, most parents agree mastering English can help their children in their future education, career, self-image and confidence in speaking English. Besides that, all parents stated that a better education and career will not make the children' life better if they cannot enjoy their life and share it with others.

Keywords: Parents' perceptions, English as foreign language, learning English in the early age, language development.

